

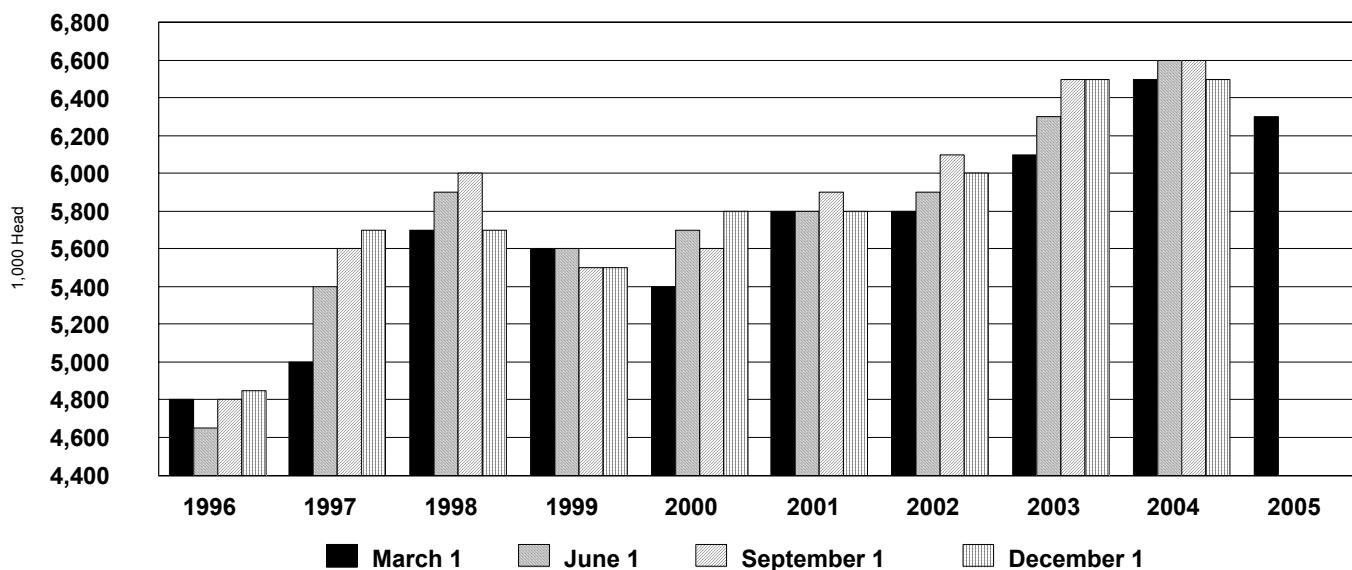


Released: March 24, 2005

MINNESOTA HOG NUMBERS DOWN 3 PERCENT FROM DECEMBER

Minnesota hog producers had an inventory of 6,300,000 hogs and pigs on March 1, 2005, down 3 percent from the year earlier and down 3 percent from the December 1, 2004 figure, according to the Minnesota Agricultural Statistics Service. Breeding hogs totaled 590,000, down 2 percent from a year earlier and market hogs and pigs at 5,710,000, were down 3 percent from a year ago.

Market hogs in the under 60 pound weight group were down 1 percent from last year. The 60-119 pound weight group were down 3 percent. Hog numbers in the 120-179 pound group were down 1 percent from last year, while the 180+ pound group was down 12 percent from a year ago.

**Quarterly All Hog Inventories
Minnesota 1996-2005****STATE PIG CROP DOWN 3 PERCENT**

Minnesota's December 2004-February 2005 pig crop totaled 2,503,000 head, down 3 percent from a year earlier and down 2 percent from the September-November 2004 pig crop. The 275,000 sows that farrowed averaged 9.10 pigs per litter, up from 9.05 a year ago. This is a new record litter rate for the December-February quarter.

MARCH-MAY 2005 AND JUNE-AUGUST 2005 INTENTIONS

Hog producers in Minnesota intend to farrow 280,000 sows during the March-May 2005 quarter. If realized this would be down 3 percent from the same period in 2004. Producers intend to farrow 280,000 sows during the June-August 2005 quarter. If realized, this would be down 2 percent from the same period in 2004.

(See back page for U.S. highlights)

U.S. HOG INVENTORY UP 1 PERCENT

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on March 1, 2005 was 59.9 million head. This was up 1 percent from March 1, 2004, but down 1 percent from December 1, 2004.

Breeding inventory, at 5.94 million head, was down slightly from both March 1, 2004 and last quarter. **Market hog inventory**, at 54.0 million head, was up 1 percent from last year, but down 1 percent from last quarter.

The December 2004 - February 2005 U.S. pig crop, at 25.5 million head, was up 2 percent from 2004 and up 4 percent from 2003. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.85 million head, up 1 percent from last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 48 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs saved per litter was 8.94 for the December 2004 - February 2005 period, compared to 8.85 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.50 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 9.00 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.87 million sows farrowed during the March-May 2005 quarter, unchanged from the actual farrowings during the same period in 2004, but 1 percent below 2003. Intended farrowings for June-August 2005, at 2.88 million sows, are down 1 percent from the same period in both 2004 and 2003.

The total number of hogs under contract, owned by operations with over 5,000 head, but raised by contractees, accounted for 39 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory, up from 37 percent last year.

Revisions

All inventory and pig crop estimates for March 2004 through December 2004 were reviewed using final pig crop, official slaughter, death loss, and updated import and export data. Based on the findings of this review, small revisions of less than one-half of one percent were made to the September 1, 2004 total inventory and the December 1, 2004 total inventory. An adjustment slightly larger than one-half of one percent was made to the June-August 2004 pig crop.

**Monthly Farrowings: Number of Sows, Pigs per Litter, and Pig Crop,
United States, December-November 2004-2005^{1/2/}**

Month	Sows Farrowing		Pigs per Litter		Pig Crop	
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
	1,000 Head	1,000 Head	Number	Number	1,000 Head	1,000 Head
Dec ¹	935	946	8.84	8.89	8,265	8,410
Jan	954	959	8.86	8.94	8,448	8,573
Feb	947	946	8.86	8.99	8,392	8,506
Mar	958		8.89		8,515	
Apr	957		8.93		8,550	
May	955		8.97		8,568	
Jun	978		8.99		8,792	
Jul	970		9.00		8,730	
Aug	957		9.03		8,640	
Sep	958		8.97		8,589	
Oct	951		8.96		8,524	
Nov	943		8.96		8,445	
Total	11,462		8.94		102,457	

¹ December preceding year.

² Monthly values may not add to quarterly or annual totals due to rounding.